

WEST
BRIDGFORD
URBAN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1903.

NOTTINGHAM :

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WEST BRIDGFORD

Urban District Council,

1903-4.

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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1903.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WEST BRIDGFORD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

The Report I now submit is the Thirteenth I have had the honour of preparing as your Medical Officer of Health. It deals with the year 1903.

The primary and the ultimate object of a Health Officer and the Sanitary Authority to which he is responsible is the prevention of disease. "Disease" is the "absence of ease," while "health" means the performance by the various organs of the body of all their functions, unknowingly and without pain. A healthy man is quite unconscious of the working of the organs of his body. Disease is the judgment of nature for the infringement of the laws of health.

The importance of an efficient National Health Service is inestimable. The expenditure of money in this service is very great. In 1902, $11\frac{1}{2}$ millions were sanctioned as loans to local authorities, while in 1901 the amount was over $13\frac{1}{4}$ millions.

By far the greater portion of these large sums was granted to Urban Districts for the purposes of Sewerage and Sewage disposal, Waterworks, Cemeteries, Hospitals, &c., while over 3 millions were sanctioned for improved dwelling accommodation.

The cost of these works, is as a rule, underestimated, with the result that supplementary loans are again required to meet excess of expenditure.

Money spent in the interests of public health should not be grudged, but as the increased expenditure means increased taxes, which must be met by the ratepayers, great care and caution should be exercised by the various Municipalities, Urban and Rural District Councils of the country. In this respect your Council has, I think, been careful in keeping down its expenditure consistent with the interests of the public welfare. Although the work of your Council has been extensive and progressive, it has not been found necessary to increase the District Rate, which remains at 3/6. The rateable value of the Parish is now £40,102.

The large expenditure by the Urban Districts is due to the increase of their population. Year by year, owing to the depressed condition of agriculture and to the lack of employment in the rural districts, there is a steady stream of the population towards our manufacturing towns. During the last 50 years 27 per cent of the rural population have migrated to towns, so that the Urban now constitutes 77 per cent of the entire population. This depopulation of the rural districts is bad in itself, but it is worse for the towns which become overcrowded, and overcrowding is probably one of the chief causes which is responsible for the deterioration of the national physique, a question which is now attracting the attention of thoughtful men.

The chief event in your Parish during 1903 was the completion of the Destructor, where all night-soil and other refuse are now consumed by fire. The Destructor has been the cause of considerable anxiety to your Council. Alterations and improvements had to be carried out, and it was towards the end of the year before it was in a satisfactory working condition.

The Disinfecting Chamber built in conjunction with the Destructor has proved of great convenience and value. Since October last we have been able to do all our own disinfecting in an efficient and satisfactory manner. As these matters have been quite recently dealt with in a report by your Surveyor, I need not refer to them here. It will, however, interest the people of West Bridgford to know, as an economic fact, that the steam generated by the destruction of the Parish refuse by burning is sufficient to drive the whole of the pumping machinery at the Sewage Farm, as well as light the whole depôt by electricity, while the saving in coal alone will be £110 per year..

Sewage Works. The alternating gear in connection with the sewage beds, after much trouble and watchfulness, is now in a fairly satisfactory working order, and your Council has decided to pay the last instalment to the patentees. Good crops of mangolds, tares, and oats were grown on the Farm ; $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres of mangolds realised £70. The oats and tares are being used as food for the horses in your Council's stables. The market value of the oats and straw grown on 5 acres of the Farm being £60—the tares £9, making a total of £139 from 13 acres.

Sewers. Further extensions have been made in South Road and the south end of Musters Road. During the year 45 house drains have been connected with the sewers as compared

with 58 during 1902. These connections were all made by your Council's own workmen, and done well.

Scavenging. Your Council has sanctioned the conversion of midden ashpits into tub closets. The tubs are of galvanised iron, and are emptied weekly. During the year 140 such conversions were made, and the change has, I believe been greatly appreciated by the residents ; and, considering the impossibility of substituting the water carriage system for these midden ashpits, your Council has, I feel sure, acted wisely in permitting the tub system on a modified scale. All new houses will of course be provided with the Water Carriage System.

There are some houses still provided with deep midden ashpits where the difficulty of substituting for these a water carriage system is not insuperable. Your Council should encourage and facilitate this most desirable alteration. The sanitation of the Parish demands this change, and apart from this, the procedure would tend towards economy in at least two directions :—(1), The contents of the ashbins are more combustible than the sloppy contents of a privy, and give a much better return, and thus a source of profit would be secured ; (2), The collection of night-soil—always an expensive item—would be avoided.

The Council, the owner, and the tenant would all be gainers thereby.

The scavenging of the Parish is now done by your Council's workmen instead of as formerly by contract, and it is much better and more expeditiously done, and at less expense.

The waste or slop-water closets continue to give satisfaction. We have now had several years experience of these. I take

every possible opportunity of enquiring into the working of these, and I have only met with one resident who objected to them.

Population. At Midsummer, 1903, there were 1,948 inhabited houses in the Parish. If we take $4\frac{1}{2}$ inhabitants to each this gives a population of 8,766, an increase of 927 over the estimated population at Midsummer, 1902. The growth of the Parish is therefore satisfactory.

Plans for 160 houses were passed by your Building Committee during the year.

While good class houses continue to be erected in the centre of the district, the tendency of late seems to be in the direction of building smaller villas and workmen's cottages, especially in the south east corner of the Parish—the district between Melton Road and the Sewage Farm.

Vital Statistics.—(1)—BIRTHS.—163 children were born during the year, 79 males and 84 females, as compared with 147 births during the previous year. The birth-rate is 18·6 per 1,000, and is exactly the same as in 1902.

The birth-rate for Nottingham for 1903 was 28 per 1,000.

There are 15 Urban Districts in the County of Nottingham, ranging in importance from Mansfield, with a population of 23,500, to Warsop, with a population of 2,800. The average birth-rate of these 15 Urban Districts is 33·5 per 1000. Warsop had the highest birth-rate, 48·2 per 1000. West Bridgford had, as usual, the lowest rate, 18·6 per 1000. I have in all my previous reports drawn attention to the exceedingly low birth-rate.

I refrain from further comment except to say that such a low birth-rate in an otherwise prosperous community is not a healthy sign.

(2)—**Deaths.**—64 deaths were registered as having occurred during the year, 27 males and 37 females, as compared with 71 deaths during 1902, and 76 during 1901. It will be remembered that 1903 was an extraordinary wet year, the rainfall being the heaviest for very many years, but this does not seem to have been prejudicial to the public health. It is supposed that the heavy and continuous rains, by flushing the drains and sewers, lessened the amount of infectious and other disease, with a corresponding low mortality.

The deaths occurred as follows :—

1st quarter	...	...	16 deaths.
2nd „	...	...	19 „
3rd „	...	...	12 „
4th „	...	...	17 „

The Autumn Quarter had the fewest deaths. This is usual in a wet year, owing to the absence of intestinal and other disorders usually associated with a warm Autumn, and which frequently prove fatal.

The death-rate is 7·3 per 1000, as compared with 9 per 1000 in 1902, and 10·8 in 1901. The Nottingham death-rate for 1903 was 16·9 per 1000. The death-rate of 7·3 per 1000 is the lowest rate ever recorded in West Bridgford.

Of the total deaths 11 were infants under one year of age; 4 died before reaching the age of 10, 4 died between the ages of 10 and 20, 15 between the ages of 20 and 50. There were 3 deaths between the ages of 50 and 60, 5 between 60 and 70, and

17 people died between 70 and 80 years of age, and 5 over 80 years of age.

There were, therefore, 17 people died over 70 years of age. That is of the total deaths more than one-fourth had exceeded the allotted span.

This has always been a noticeable feature in the vital statistics of the Parish.

The diseases causing the chief mortality were :—

Consumption	...	...	...	8 deaths
Diseases of the Respiratory Organs (other than Consumption)	...			5 „
Tubercular diseases (other than Consumption)	...	...	...	1 „
Heart disease	...	...	...	2 „
Cancer	...	...	...	9 „
Senile Decay	...	...	...	7 „

There was one death from Diphtheria, one from Scarlet Fever, and one from Enteric Fever.

There were two deaths from accidents. There was unfortunately one case of murder, and one of suicide. There was one uncertified death. Three inquests were held.

In my previous reports I have advised your Council to erect a small Mortuary, to which a dead body could be removed, when a post-mortem examination was ordered by the Coroner. While inspecting your Sanitary Depot a few weeks ago, I found that one of the compartments underneath the inclined roadway would make a suitable mortuary. I would venture to commend this suggestion to the consideration of your Health Committee.

Of the infants who died before completing the first year of life, one died from abdominal abcess, 2 from gastro-enteritis, 4 from convulsions, and 4 from being prematurely born.

The small number of deaths from gastric affections was probably due to the wet and cold summer, which prevented milk undergoing those putrifactive changes which are such a fertile source of intestinal disorders in young children.

As this report will probably, as in former years, reach many of the homes in your Parish I would here condemn as strongly as possible the use of that modern abomination—the artificial or “dummy teat.”

Any parent with the least regard for the future welfare of his child should see that this is not used. Monthly nurses are largely to blame for its introduction. Its use in my opinion is largely responsible for one of the commonest diseases which now afflict children—post nasal adenoid growths. The presence of these growths gives rise to imperfect breathing, which interferes with the proper development of the lungs and chest—to suppurating ears and deafness. These growths, further by blocking up the nasal passages, cause the child to become a “mouth breather”—the mouth while in repose is open, giving the child a vacant and stupid look, while the intellect may even become dulled.

Recent investigations on this subject shewed that of 375 children examined, 33 per cent had these post-nasal growths, and of these 27 per cent had defective hearing. Such cases can at once be detected by the trained eye of a doctor, and the importance of being able to direct the attention of parents to this unsuspected and concealed source of ill-health and defective development is very great.

A few years ago I made an examination of all the younger children in Musters Road Board School, and the number found suffering from unhealthy throats and noses and defective teeth was appalling.

The remedy for this is the adoption of the American and Continental System of periodic Medical Examinations of all School Board children. Hygiene should be made a compulsory subject in all schools,—the simple rules for young children, with perhaps a more advanced course in the Evening Continuation Classes.

An influential medical representation is about to be made to the Board of Education “that it is of urgent importance that elementary scientific instruction on health subjects, including temperance, should be provided in all primary schools by the Local Educational Authorities, in order that the conditions which lead to deterioration of the national physique may be understood and as far as possible prevented.”

The question of the deterioration of the national physique has been referred to by Dr. Handford in a report to the Health Committee of the Notts. County Council in October last. Sanitary science has done much to lower the national death rate, but there has not been concurrently any improvement in the national health and vigour. It is hoped that the County Council, which has now the control of the Board Schools in your Parish, will do something to improve the physique of the rising generation. I think the District Council of West Bridgford might, however, do something in this direction, and I would suggest that you should encourage the formation of a Volunteer Corps for the Young Men in the Parish. There should be no difficulty in raising a Company of 100 strong, which would

prove a welcome addition to the "Robin Hoods." There are plenty of open spaces in the Parish which could be used for drill, while there is more than one large room which might be secured as a Drill Hall and Morris Tube Range.

The West Bridgford Boys Brigade has made for itself more than a local reputation. Over 500 boys have passed through its ranks, and its present strength is over 100. What more natural than that these boys when they reach the age of 18 or 20 should draft themselves into a Volunteer Regiment. The Drill would do much to improve their physique and stamina, while the discipline would have a wholesome moral effect.

Every Young man healthy in body and mind, and with the least patriotic sentiment should consider it to be one of his greatest privileges to become a Volunteer.

As this is a question which concerns the National Health and maybe some day the National welfare, I think that, as your Medical Officer of Health, I am not travelling beyond my jurisdiction in bringing the subject before the notice of your Council, and asking you to give it your serious consideration and your influential support.

Infant Mortality. Of 163 Children born during 1903, 11 died before reaching the age of one year. This is about an average for West Bridgford, and is considerably lower than last year when the number of deaths under one year was 19.

In a residential district like West Bridgford where there is neither poverty nor overcrowding the rate of infant mortality should always be low.

Water Supply. During 1903 new mains were laid as follows :—

107	yards	of 3 in.	main	on Clumber Road.
233	„	6 in.	„	Radcliffe Road.
65	„	4 in.	„	„ „
250	„	3 in.	„	Portland Road.
66	„	3 in.	„	Highfield Road.
155	„	4 in.	„	Musters Road and South Road.
101	„	3 in.	„	Chantry Road.
92	„	3 in.	„	North Road.
88	„	3 in.	„	Millicent Grove.
110	„	3 in.	„	Glebe Road.

1,267

The roads in the parish are in good order and appear to wear well. Owing to the wet summer not much street watering was required.

I have drawn the attention of the Chairman of your Highways Committee to a new Disinfectant Dust-layer named “Westrumite,” which has quite recently been introduced, and which is highly spoken of by the press as an effective dust-layer. It is an oily substance very soluble in water.

The merits and claims of “Westrumite” are shortly described as follows :—

- (1) It is an absolutely satisfactory Dust-layer.
- (2) It has no disagreeable smell.
- (3) It forms a non-slippery road surface which dries in from four to twelve hours.
- (4) It does not soil wearing apparel, nor spoil rubber tyres.
- (5) It is an effective disinfectant.

- (6) It can be applied by an ordinary watering cart.
- (7) It prevents the formation of mud and pools of water on the Roads.
- (8) It is cheap.
- (9) One application serves from two to eight weeks according to the traffic and state of the weather.

The Press notices, and scientific opinion are so extremely favourable, that I trust your Highways Committee will give "Westrumite" a trial during the coming summer.

The construction of the Nottingham Corporation new Reservoir on the Wilford Hill will be proceeded with shortly. When completed this will increase the pressure from 45 lbs. to over 95 lbs. per square inch, and thus give a much better supply of water during the summer months.

Lighting and Gas Supply. During the past year extensions have been made to the gas mains to a much larger extent than usual, namely, to the extent of 888 yards, and a large number of consumers have been added to the existing mains, and 16 new public lamps have been erected.

It was reported last year that the Nottingham Corporation Lighting Committee sent a deputation to Leeds and Bradford to inspect various systems of incandescent street lighting, and they were about to make some experiments with a new form of incandescent street lamp.

This system has been very largely extended throughout the whole of the City, and the Committee have now had considerable experience with several forms of incandescent street lighting.

It is the intention of the Lighting Committee to largely extend Incandescent Lighting throughout the City.

The price of gas has already been reduced by 2d. per 1000, and it is anticipated that a further reduction of 2d. will be made in the near future.

Infectious Diseases. During the year 109 cases of infectious diseases were reported, of these 87 were of Scarlet Fever, 16 of Diphtheria, and 6 of Enteric Fever. This is by far the largest number of infectious diseases ever recorded in one year. One of the cases of Diphtheria, a servant maid, was removed to the Basford Sanatorium. One of the cases of Enteric Fever was probably due to eating oysters. The bi-valve is now recognised as one of the chief causes of Enteric Fever, as they are sometimes bred in the estuaries of sewage polluted rivers. Two of the Scarlet Fever Cases were, owing to special circumstances, removed to the Basford Sanatorium. All the other cases were treated at their homes.

Owing to this Sanatorium being used for Small Pox, no other class of cases was admitted during the last six months of the year.

During the first three weeks of December the Parish was almost free from Scarlet Fever, but during the last week there was a fresh out-break, nine cases being reported. I am of opinion that the various childrens' parties which take place about Christmas time were responsible for this recrudescence of the disease.

The Sanitary Arrangements in your Parish are of three kinds :—

(1) Houses with indoor W.C's and outside a privy and deep ashpit.

(2) Houses with indoor W.C. but where the privy has been converted into a "tub" or "pail" closet, and the deep ashpit filled up and done away with.

(3) Houses provided with an outdoor waste water closet and an ashbin.

I find that during 1903 the infectious diseases were fairly distributed amongst those three classes of dwellings, although in 1902, Scarlet Fever was much more prevalent in those houses provided with deep privies and ashpits.

Notification of Infectious Diseases. All cases reported under this Act were duly investigated by me. The cases being chiefly sporadic in character, make it difficult to find the cause. The water supply to the Parish is above suspicion. The milk supply also appears to have been blameless. The vast majority of cases arise from contact with children attending school while in an infectious condition.

The fees paid to medical practitioners for notification amounted to £13 12s. 6d.

Scarlet Fever. 87 Cases were notified during the year. This is the largest number of cases ever recorded in the Parish during one year.

The disease was likewise very prevalent in Nottingham and other parts of the country. There was one fatal case. Two cases were, owing to special circumstances, removed to the Board's Sanatorium.

Although Scarlet Fever can, as a rule, be fairly well treated at home, cases do occur where removal to hospital is highly

desirable. Cases of servant-maids, school teachers, post office officials, etc., or where a member of a large family takes the disease.

Your Council have had the question of Hospital accommodation for the Parish under serious consideration. Plans for a Cottage Hospital, to consist of two wards, each to have four beds with dressing rooms, nurses rooms, lavatories, etc, have been prepared by your Surveyor, and approved of by your Health Committee. Your Council have, however, asked the Health Committee to reconsider the question and report on a complete scheme of Hospital Isolation for the Parish.

A site has not yet been chosen, but it is hoped that before long a suitable site will be found. I think that there can be no doubt that a small hospital would be a great convenience to residents in West Bridgford, and it could be made partially self-supporting.

Let me give you a case in point which is at the present time under my own observation.

A family consisting of father, mother, and six children and two maids. During the Christmas holidays one of the younger children took Scarlet Fever. She could not be removed to Bagthorpe Isolation Hospital, as the Hospital only receives cases occurring within the City boundaries, she could not be sent to Bastford Sanatorium as this was being reserved for small-pox cases, and no other hospital was available. To keep all the members of this large family at home was to court disaster. The four boys had, therefore, to be sent away from home at once, so that they might be able to attend business and resume school after the holidays.

How much easier and more satisfactory would it have been to this family had it been possible to have had the sick child at once removed to a comfortable, well, appointed little hospital in the Parish, where she would have been well nursed and attended by the family doctor.

Grave objections have recently been raised against the existing Isolation Hospitals, objections which are backed by eminent Medical Officers of Health, in that these Hospitals have failed to stamp out or even lessen the prevalence of Scarlet Fever, and that they are largely responsible for the number of "return" cases which occur.

These objections, however, refer to *large* Isolation Hospitals such as Bagthorpe Hospital. The same objections could not, I think, be urged against a *small* Cottage Hospital such as your Council propose to erect.

If the existing Isolation Hospitals have proved a comparative failure it is because they are too large; and the wards contain too many patients.

As bearing on the urgency of this Hospital question, I quote the following letter dated, 10th November last;—

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BASFORD,
PUBLIC OFFICES,
BASFORD.

To The Urban District Council of West Bridgford, and to
W. H. Redgate, Esq., Clerk to the said Council.

I hereby give you notice that the Rural District Council of Basford will determine the agreement entered into between the said Rural District Council of

Basford, and the said Urban District Council of West Bridgford, dated the 8th July, 1898, as to admitting into the Sanatorium belonging to the said Rural District Council, of patients suffering from infectious diseases, after the expiration of three Calendar months from the date hereof, that is to say on the 11th day of February, 1904, after which date the Medical Officer of Health of the said Rural District Council of Basford will refuse the admission of any patient within the District of the said Urban District Council to the said Sanatorium.

Given under my hand this 10th day of November, 1903.

(Signed) C. J. SPENCER,

*Clerk to and for and on behalf of the
said Rural District Council of Basford.*

Diphtheria. 16 cases were reported during the year, as compared with only one case during 1902. Of the 16 cases one proved fatal. The wet weather was probably accountable for this great increase, as atmospheric humidity is in this country generally considered favourable to the prevalence of Diphtheria.

The continued prevalence of this disease throughout the Country is disheartening. The mortality has, however, greatly diminished.

The value of the Anti-Diphtheritic serum both in the prevention and cure of the disease, is one of the greatest achievements of modern medicine. The serum is now easily obtained and at a moderate price.

Consumption. This disease was responsible for 8 deaths. In the County of Nottingham 10 out of every 100 deaths are due to consumptive diseases. It is now looked upon as an infectious disease which may under certain circumstances spread. The Bacillus of consumption thrives in small badly lighted, ill-ventilated rooms. For the prevention and cure of consumption we must depend therefore on an abundance of fresh air and sunlight.

Whether in health or disease the windows of all inhabited houses ought to be more or less open, day and night, to admit the fresh air. The popular belief that breathing night air is injurious is quite erroneous.

The variations between day and night air are conducive to sound health, and serve to fortify against injury by sudden and extreme change. In summer, as a rule, the windows cannot be too widely open. Less opening is required during the winter, but even in very cold weather, bed room windows should be left partially open, and a current of fresh air allowed to circulate through the room. In cold weather blankets may be substituted for linen or cotton sheets. This is especially desirable for those who suffer from any chest affection, rheumatism or other chronic ailment.

Cancer. There were 9 deaths from Cancer, 3 males and 6 females. This disease seems to be on the increase. Its cause is as yet unknown. It affects men and animals alike. It is said that of every twelve women who die after the age of 45 one dies from Cancer. The proportion in males is smaller.

A "Cancer Research Fund," to which over £50,000 has been subscribed has recently been formed for the purpose of investigating the cause and cure of the malady, and the results

so far are full of hope. Many Cancers of the skin and exposed parts have been cured by the X Rays, but this remedy has little or no effect on internal Cancer.

In addition to experiments directed towards the discovery of the cause of Cancer, the work of the fund will include researches having for their object the preparation of immunizing and curative serums, and it is probable that in this direction a cure may ultimately be found.

Disinfection. So soon as an infectious case is considered no longer infectious the fact is notified to me on a post card printed for this purpose, and instructions are then given to your sanitary staff to have the bedroom disinfected. All bed clothing, wearing apparel etc., which cannot be thoroughly boiled at home, are removed in a covered conveyance to the Disinfecting Chamber at the Destructor Depot, in which these are kept for fifteen minutes at a temperature sufficiently high to destroy all micro-organisms. On the following day the disinfected articles are sent home. The bedroom has in the meantime been thoroughly disinfected by a combination of formaldehyd and sulphur, combining the fumes of sulphur and the great disinfecting and penetrating power of formaldehyd gas. These are sufficient to destroy both the germs of disease and vermin. Formaldehyd itself has little effect on vermin, but burning sulphur is the best known means of destroying them. One or more candles composed of these substances are placed in the middle of the room and lighted. The windows are sealed from the inside and the door from the outside. The heat from the burning sulphur drives off the formaldehyd gas. There is no danger from fire. The room is kept closed from 12 to 24 hours, after which time the windows are kept wide open and the room thoroughly aired

before being occupied. Where possible the room should not be used for another week, the windows being kept open night and day.

With the exercise of the greatest care it is not always possible to prevent bedding, etc., from being slightly damaged while in the steam disinfecter, although I have had, as yet, no complaints of this. It is very advisable at the very onset of an infectious case that the bedroom should be stripped of all unnecessary articles such as carpets, rugs, curtains, wearing apparel, etc.

Your Surveyor has appointed two men to attend to this work, and so far they have shewn aptitude and intelligence in carrying it out.

Small Pox. Although Small-pox was very prevalent in many parts of the country during 1903 your Parish was fortunate enough to remain clear. About the middle of February of the present year a case occurred—the first case of small-pox ever recorded in West Bridgford since public health records have been kept. This was a labouring man, who probably contracted the disease in Nottingham. He was promptly removed to a room at the Sewage Farm, where he remained a fortnight and was then discharged. The residents at the cottage where the man lodged were vaccinated, as were also all the staff of workmen at the Farm depot. No further case occurred.

Your Council was fortunate in having at its disposal such an excellent room for the isolation of this case, where the man was very comfortably housed, and where owing to the isolated situation of the Farm there was little likelihood of the disease spreading.

The total expense incurred, including new bedstead and bedding, food for the sick man, and for several "contacts" who were isolated in the cottage where the disease was detected, revaccination of staff, medical attendance, and other incidental expenses will amount to about £30. It cannot be too widely known that the only safeguard against this scourge is efficient vaccination and re-vaccination. At the present time, when it is prevalent in the country, and especially in and around Nottingham, it is advisable that everyone should take advantage of this simple and harmless protection.

Private Street Works. Your Council has completed, under the powers of the "Private Street Works Act," and adopted the following roads.

Byron Road,
Highfield Road (part of),
Victoria Road,
Pavilion Road,
Mleton Grove,
Rosebery Avenue.

These roads, with some others, have been planted with trees, which greatly add to the beauty of the District. It is intended to continue the planting of trees in all the roads of sufficient width, a portion being done each autumn.

Schools. In my previous reports I have on more than one occasion expressed the opinion that Board Schools are the great factors in the spread of infectious disease.

The New Education Act has placed the control and management of the Board Schools in your Parish in the hands of the County Council.

The daily aggregation of a large number of children in schools, often imperfectly ventilated, render the spread of an infectious disease from an undetected case easy. In course of time the walls, ceiling, and furniture may become infected. It is therefore very desirable (until the regular and periodic Medical examination of all schools become law) that teachers should be able to recognise the early symptoms of the commoner infectious disorders, and that at least once a year, in holiday time, the interior of all school buildings should be thoroughly and efficiently disinfected and the windows afterwards kept open during the remainder of the holidays.

I believe that the County Medical Officer of Health will advise the adoption of measures on some such lines.

At the time of writing this Report there is unfortunately an outbreak of Diphtheria in the Parish. The first case was notified on the 18th January, previous to which the Parish had for several weeks been free from the disease. Subsequent cases were notified on the 24th, 25th, 27th, 29th and 31st, January and on the 5th, 6th and 9th February.

The case notified on the 18th January was a boy attending the Musters Road Board Schools. All the subsequent cases were children *from the same Class Room* in these schools. It is fair to presume that these cases were infected by the first boy who probably was allowed to attend School while in the early stage of Diphtheria.

The Class-room was disinfected at my request, and no further cases occurred. The New Education Act does not limit or interfere with the powers of the Urban District Council or the action of its Medical Officer of Health. They remain the same as

under the old Act. Should it be considered advisable at any time to close a school by reason of the prevalence of an infectious disease, and as a means of checking this, notice must be sent to Mr. Bristowe at the Shire Hall.

Fire Brigade. For some time past your Council has felt uneasy regarding the possibility of fires occurring in the Parish, especially as there was some doubt whether in the event of a conflagration the Nottingham Fire Brigade would be available.

Steps have therefore been recently taken by your Council to raise and equip a Brigade, to consist partly of voluntary Firemen and partly of the Council's workmen, who will be paid a retaining fee.

Application has been made to the Local Government Board for sanction to borrow a sum of £250 for the various fire extinguishing appliances. Considerable difference of opinion exists among the members of the Council, whether one Central Station for the entire District should be provided or whether two Stations should be provided, the second Station to be on the Lady Bay Estate. The point is still under consideration.

Cemetery. I am informed that the laying out of the Corporation Cemetery for the Southern Division of the town is in abeyance for the present. This is unfortunate, as the Parish burying ground is quite inadequate for the needs of a populous and growing district like West Bridgford.

Licensed Houses. No new licenses were granted during 1903, and the district fortunately remains in the rare position of having only one licensed house to a population of nearly 9,000.

Meteorology. As 1903 was quite an execeptional year I quote the following interesting notes from "The Meteorology of Nottingham," by Mr. Arthur Browne, the City Engineer.

Rainfall. The total Rainfall for the year 1903 was 32·368 inches. This amount has only been exceeded twice during the last 36 years, namely in 1872, when 35·903 inches of rain were recorded, and in 1882, when 34·381 inches of rain fell ; the year under review has the unenviable notoriety of possessing the wettest day ever recorded, which was on the 24th August, when 2·357 inches of rain were collected ; the next wettest day being 8th August 1875, when 2·157 inches of rain fell ; the two wettest months in this year were August, when 5·441 inches of rain fell, and October, when 6·453 inches of rain collected ; the latter is the record for October ; the wettest August recorded was in 1878, when 6·453 inches of rain fell, which by a most curious coincidence is precisely the same was recorded as in October 1903 ; the wettest month recorded was December, 1868, when 6·564 inches of rain fell ; the rainfall for the first two months and the last two months of the year was below the average, otherwise the fall would have surpassed local records.

Barometer. The year has not been conspicuous for any very abnormal conditions of the Barometer.

Thermometer. To describe the vagaries of the Thermometer would require more space than is here available : the nine o'clock temperature on many days in January and February was higher than on several days in the early part of May. It is usual to contrast May with December : the nine o'clock temperature on 11 mornings in May was equalled or surpassed by the temperature at the same time taken one morning in Christmas week.

In April there were many sharp frosts, which had a very disastrous effect on the fruit crops, and during this month there were 11 days when the minimum temperature in the air went below freezing point (one day as low as 26°). On the ground the Thermometer on 17 days went below freezing point, and on two occasions shewed nearly 13° of frost.

There were during the summer only four short periods of summer weather viz. :—during the last fortnight in May, when the maximum Thermometer once reached 76.4° ; during the first week in June, when there was some moderately warm sunny weather, during the last 10 days in June when the maximum Thermometer once reached 82.6° ; and during the first 10 days in July, when the maximum Thermometer reached on one day 85.4° .

Sunshine. During the year 1,429, hours sunshine were recorded, which is an increase on 1902, when only 1,350 hours were registered.

In concluding this Report I beg to express my thanks to the Members of your Council for their unvarying courtesy and kindness to me, to the Clerk for his kindly advice, to Mr. Pare, your excellent Surveyor, whose zeal and energy in the interests of the Parish is known to you all; also to Mr. Gray for information kindly supplied by him needful for this Report.

I append the usual Local Government Board Tables.

I remain Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER HUNTER, M.D

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1903.*Name of District, WEST BRIDGFORD.*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox							
Cholera							
Diphtheria	16		3	8	3	2	
Membranous Croup..							
Erysipelas							
Scarlet fever ..	87		21	53	7	6	
Typhus fever ..							
Enteric fever ..	6			1	3	2	
Relapsing fever ..							
Continued fever ..							
Puerperal fever ..							
Plague							
Totals	109		24	62	13	10	

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

WEST BRIDGFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Small-pox							
Measles							
Scarlet fever	1				1		
Whooping-cough							
Diphtheria & membranous croup	1		1				
Croup							
Fever { Typhus							
{ Enteric	1					1	
{ Other continued							
Epidemic influenza	1				1		
Cholera							
Plague							
Diarrhœa	1	1					
Enteritis	2	1	1				
Puerperal fever							
Erysipelas							
Other septic diseases							
Phthisis	8				3	5	
Other tubercular diseases							
Cancer, malignant disease	9					5	4
Bronchitis	2						2
Pneumonia	3		1				2
Pleurisy							
Other diseases of Respira- tory organs	1		1				
Alcoholism							
Cirrhosis of Liver }	1					1	
Venereal diseases							
Premature birth	4	4					
Diseases and accidents of parturition							
Heart diseases	3				1		2
Accidents	2					1	1
Suicides	1					1	
All other causes	23	5				5	13
All causes	64	11	4		6	19	24

